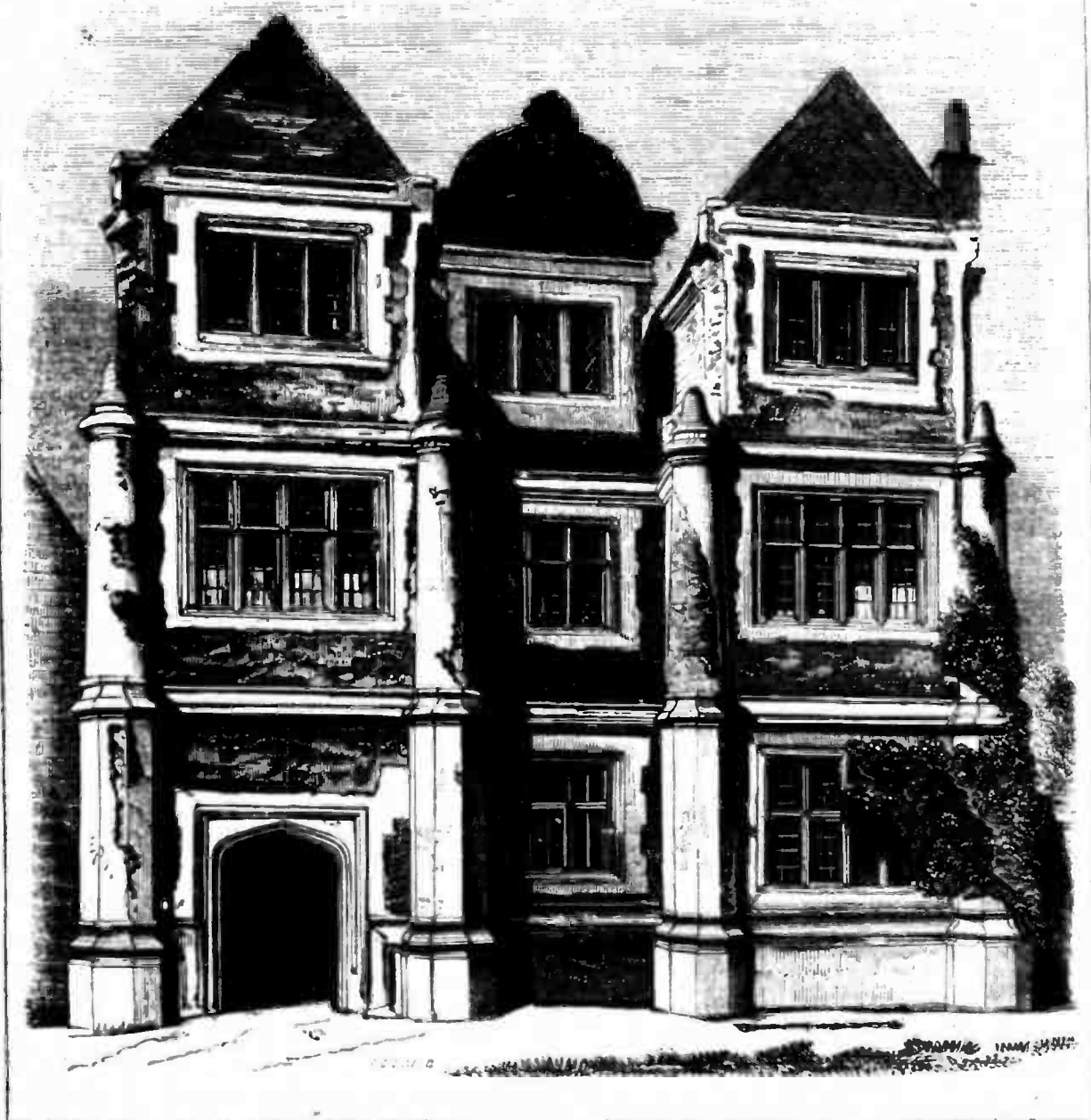


THE QUARRIES, NEAR ROCHESTER.



STATE OF THE GAS MAINS.

LOSS AND DANGER THROUGH BAD WORKMANSHIP.

We are desired to direct the attention of the gas companies, to the very defective state of the gas mains running along High-street, St. Giles's, and also along Tottenham-court-road. The escape and waste of gas must be alarming. Some time ago the electric fluid ignited the gas in the gully drain by Menz's brewhouse, and blew up the paving for several yards around it. Upon opening the sewer in High-street, by Denmark-street, on Monday last, the issue of gas from it was so great as to prevent any one from approaching within some yards of it for nearly two hours. It was very fortunate the workmen had no light with them at the time of opening the sewer, otherwise a fearful accident would have been the result. The escape of gas by the gully holes at times, is very annoying to passengers and the inhabitants.

THE QUARRIES, NEAR ROCHESTER, KENT.

There is some probability in supposing that the curious building represented in the print, known as "The Quarries," near Rochester, was erected by Thomas Lord Cromwell, in the reign of Henry VIII., as it is on ground which, with the adjoining manor of Ealingham, in the parish of Frindsbury, was granted to him by his capricious master. The building stands on the summit of a hill, which stretches out a considerable distance into the Medway, between the towns of Chatham and Rochester. The house commands therefore a fine and extensive view, but the situation is so bleak and cold during the winter months, that it is at that period of the year hardly habitable. The house is very small, and could only have been intended as a place of occasional retirement for a person of distinction. Besides the carefully designed front, it bears considerable marks of state and quality about it: there is a

large court-yard in front, the entrance to which immediately opposite the door of the building, is a handsome archway, enriched with pilasters, entablature, &c.

The interior of the building possesses very few of its original fittings—one large fire-place, with the ancient woodwork, alone remains. The exterior has undergone considerable change; and the side front, which is a prominent object to a spectator on Rochester Bridge, has been entirely rebuilt.

The ancient portion of the building is carefully constructed in red brick; the whole of the string courses, the parapets, the sides of the windows, and the curious circular buttresses are covered with combs. The latter, from the exposed situation of the building and the utter state of neglect to which it has been doomed, has nearly disappeared. It will be seen, that the two small gables over the windows have been rebuilt in a plain style; there can be little doubt that they had originally the